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SUBJECT: H1N1 UPDATE: 13,180 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 1014, B) Berlin 1012 and previous.

¶1. (U) SUMMARY: The number of confirmed H1N1 infections in Germany increased by 560 cases, bringing the total as of August 21 to 13,740. END SUMMARY

¶2. (U) At its August 21 press briefing, the National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) confirmed a total of 560 new (laboratory and non-laboratory) H1N1 cases in Germany, increasing the total number of H1N1 cases to 13,740. New cases were distributed among the federal states as follows: Schleswig-Holstein (142), North Rhine-Westphalia (98), Baden-Wuerttemberg (69), Bavaria (66), Lower-Saxony (60), Berlin (28), Hesse (27), Rhineland-Palatinate (27), Brandenburg (18), Hamburg (9), Bremen (6), Thuringia (5), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (3) and Saxony-Anhalt (2).

¶3. (U) According to RKI, 431 of the total 560 new cases are attributed to people returning from travel abroad. New cases include non-laboratory H1N1 cases that exhibited symptoms after being in contact with a laboratory confirmed infected person.

¶4. (U) North Rhine-Westphalia remains the German state with the highest number of confirmed virus cases with a total of 4,617, followed by Lower-Saxony (2,285) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (1,697 cases). According to NRW's Institute for Health and Labor, there is still no indication of a "major outbreak"; the situation is under control. Although school has started already in NRW, there has been no major increase in new infections among students. Students have been advised to carefully apply hygiene measures and schools have been advised to increase the number of hygiene articles available at schools to avoid a spread of the virus. About 23 percent (3,152) of all confirmed infections in Germany have resulted from domestic transmission.

¶5. (U) Estimates by the Rheinisch-Westfaelisches Institute for Economic Research (RWI), one of Germany's leading research institutes, indicate that the German economy could faces losses of up to 160 billion Euro - roughly 0.7 percent of German GDP - in a worse case scenario outbreak of the new flu. In this scenario, the infection rate is assumed to be 50

percent. Industries most affected would be transport, food services, and culture due to an anticipated decrease in tourism and business travel.

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